

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 L-03 H-02 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DOTE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 /076 W

-----001368 201734Z /53

P R 201615Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6152

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS NICOSIA 1882

BRUSSELS AND GOME FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: U.S. REGISTERED AIRCRAFT LANDS AT "TFSC"

ERCAN AIRPORT

REF: NICOSIA 1724 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO BOTH GOC DEPT OF CIVIL AVIATION (DCA) AND "TFSC" (TURKISH FEDERATED STATE OF CYPRUS) DCA U.S. REGISTERED AIRCRAFT BOEING 720 NO. N731T (SEVEN-THREE-ONE) OPERATED BY AERO AMERICA COMING FROM CAIRO BOUND FOR TEL AVIV ON 7/17/77 LANDED AT "TFSC" ERCAN AIRPORT. GOC FONMIN DIRECTOR GENERAL CALLED EMBASSY TO PROTEST LANDING OF BOTH AERO AMERICA A/C AS WELL AS BEECHCRAFT CORP. INCIDENT OF 6/28/77 (REPORTED REFTEL). GOC HAS ASKED FOR INFO UNCLASSIFIED

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REGARDING RECENT AERO AMERICA INCIDENT AND REQUESTED THAT USG TAKE ACTION AGAINST AMERICAN OPERATORS WHO UTILIZE ERCAN ATC OR ERCAN AIRPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 15 NICOSIA ATC CALLED EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER TO ADVISE THAT ATC HAS RECEIVED REQUEST FROM CAIRO CIVAIR AUTHORITIES FOR FLIGHT CLEARANCE FOR A/C COMING FROM CAIRO TO LAND AT ERCAN. ACCORDING TO

NICOSIA ATC, CAIRO WAS INFORMED THAT ERCAN IS NOT RECOGNIZED AIRPORT SERVING CYPRUS. ON JULY 17 AT 1000 GMT NICOSIA ATC CALLED EMBASSY TO ANNOUNCE THAT N731T WOULD BE LANDING AT ERCAN AT 1015 GMT.

3. IN MEETING WITH EMBOFF GOC DIRECTOR CIVAIR (DCA) EXPLAINED THAT ORIGINAL MESSAGE FROM CAIRO ON JULY 15 INDICATED A/C INTENDED TO FLY CAIRO-ERCAN-ISTANBUL. ON DAY OF THE FLIGHT, JULY 17, CAIRO CLEARED A/C TO FLY FROM CAIRO TO ISTANBUL VIA AIRWAY AMBER 16. AS A/C CROSSED NICOSIA FIR, NICOSIA ATC TURNED A/C OVER TO ANKARA CONTROL (ROUTINE PROCEDURE). ACCORDING TO "TFSC" DCA WHEN AIRCRAFT WAS OVER TURKEY IT TURNED AROUND AND APPROACHED ERCAN VIA AIRWAY RED 19 LANDING AT ERCAN AT 1020 GMT. A/C REFUELED AND TOOK OFF FROM ERCAN AT 1241 GMT. A/C PROCEEDED TO B15A, CONTACTED NICOSIA CONTROL AND PROCEEDED TO ALASIA AND ON TO TEL AVIV FIR VIA AIRWAY RED 18. GOC DCA CONFIRMED THAT AFTER TAKE OFF FROM ERCAN, A/C CONTACTED NICOSIA ATC AND COORDINATED FLIGHT THROUGH NICOSIA FIR TO TEL AVIV. GOC DCA ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT WHEN NICOSIA ATC ASKED A/C TO IDENTIFY PLACE OF DEPARTURE A/C COMMANDER REPLIED HE HAD COME FROM ADANA (TURKEY). AFTER SECOND TIME REQUEST BY NICOSIA ATC TO IDENTIFY PLACE OF TAKE-OFF A/C COMMANDER ADMITTED A/C HAD JUST LEFT ERCAN. (GOC DCA SUGGESTED THIS ATTEMPT TO MISLEAD PROBABLY MEANS A/C COMMANDER FULLY UNDERSTOOD IRREGULARITY OF OPERATING VIA ERCAN).

4. GOC DCA IS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT A/C CARRIED 57 PASSENGERS WITH CREW OF 5 AND THINKS SOME OR ALL PASSENGERS MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN UNCLASSIFIED

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OFF AT ERCAN. "TFSC" DCA TOLD EMBOFF A/C CARRIED ONLY CREW. "TFSC" DCA INFORMED EMBOFF A/C WENT TO TEL AVIV FOR SEVEN-DAY MAINTENANCE.

5. COMMENT: WE NOTE FOLLOWING RELATED FACTORS:

(A) ON OCTOBER 14, 1975, BRITISH REGISTERED BUSINESS JET LANDED AT ERCAN ON MERCY MISSION TO PICK UP U.K. CITIZEN REQUIRING MEDICAL ATTENTION. IN ANSWER TO GOC PROTEST THAT BRITISH PLANE HAD LANDED AT ERCAN, U.K. HIGH COMMISSION RESPONDED THAT HMG HAS NO CONTROL OVER PRIVATELY OWNED BRITISH A/C OUTSIDE U.K. GOC AT THE TIME ACCEPTED BRITISH EXPLANATION, POSSIBLY IN PART BECAUSE OF EMERGENCY NATURE OF FLIGHT.

(B) WE UNDERSTAND THAT AT PRESENT VIRTUALLY ALL, IF NOT ALL, AIRLINES FLYING THROUGH NORTHERN PART OF NICOSIA FIR CHECK IN WITH ERCAN. THESE AIRLINES INCLUDE MIDDLE EAST, TAROM, TEL AVIV, EL AL, AEROFLOT, ALITALIA, KLM AND OTHERS. PAN AM AND TWA, HOWEVER, HAVE RE-ROUTED ALL FLIGHTS IN ORDER TO AVOID FLYING THROUGH ERCAN ADVISORY AIRSPACE. END COMMENT.

ACTION REQUESTED:

6. FOR TEL AVIV: IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO GOC QUERY, WOULD APPRECIATE IF EMBASSY TEL AVIV COULD CHECK WITH A/C CREW: A) HISTORY OF JULY

17 FLIGHT, B) WHETHER PASSENGERS WERE ABOARD AND IF SO WHETHER ANY  
DISEMBARKED OR BOARDED AT ERCAN AND C) REASON WHY A/C DID NOT LAND  
AT GOC - CONTROLLED LARNACA AIRPORT WHICH IS USUAL "CLEANSING  
POINT" IN THIS PART OF THE MIDDLE EAST FOR A/C GOINT TO/FROM ISRAEL  
AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES.

7. FOR SECSTATE: ON JULY 18, GOC FONMIN DIRGEN ORALLY PROTESTED  
BOTH JULY 17 LANDING AND JUNE 28 BEECHCRAFT LANDING AT ERCAN  
(EMBASSY DID NOT RECEIVE PROTEST NOTE REGARDING BEECHCRAFT INCIDENT,  
SEE REFTEL). HE ASKED FOR FULL DETAILS REGARDING JULY 17 INCIDENT  
AND THAT THE USG TAKE ACTION AGAINST AMERICAN OPERATORS WHO  
UTILIZE ERCAN ACC OR LAND AT ERCAN AIRPORT. WE WILL BE GIVING  
HIM DETAILS OF THE AERO AMERICA INCIDENT, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE  
GUIDANCE ON HOW TO RESPOND TO HIS REQUEST FOR USG ACTION AGAINST  
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INDIVIDUAL OPERATORS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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